

FROM

STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

MIKE BRIGGS

29TH DISTRICT

Fresno/Tulare Counties



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Agriculture Bill Update

Agriculture is facing a number of difficult hurdles this year relating to pest management and land that is used for illegal production of methamphetamine. I have introduced, or agreed to co-author, a number of new measures in response to these challenges. It is my fervent belief that we must do all we can to protect and help growers and ensure the health of our agricultural industry.

Vertebrate Abatement

The Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee is a highly successful program that helps develop effective rodenticides as a means of combating vertebrate pests. The Vertebrate Pest Control Research law is due to sunset at the end of this year, and my bill, AB 2071, would extend the law for another five years.

Pierce's Disease

I am co-authoring SB 671 with Senator Chesbro, which would appropriate nearly \$7 million for the purpose of research and other efforts to combat the spread of Pierce's Disease and its vectors. This disease is perhaps the biggest threat facing our table grape and wine grape industries today. Local public entities that apply for funding must have a Pierce's Disease workplan in place.

CDEA Pest Control Funding

I am requesting \$8.5 million in one-time budget funding to be used for fighting high-risk pest populations. The funding would be allocated directly to the California Department of Food and Agriculture to fund research and control efforts.

High Risk Pests

Pest control research is instrumental if we are to maintain the health and vitality of the agricultural industry. California must stay one step ahead of crop-destroying pests, ensuring bountiful harvests. That's why I have signed onto AB 1771. It would allocate \$5.5 million on an annual basis for high-risk pest exclusion activities.

Methamphetamine Scourge

Illegal Methamphetamine production facilities, or "meth labs," are a huge problem for growers in the Central Valley. Growers are often forced to pay for cleanup of abandoned labs, shouldering costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Abandoned labs are also toxic threats, taking once fertile Ag land out of production. In response to this threat, I have agreed to co-author several bills.

Remove the Burden

SB 1989 from Senator Chuck Poochigian would create a new Comprehensive Clandestine Drug Laboratory Environmental Response and Liability Act.

More importantly, the burden of cleanup of abandoned "meth labs" would be removed from individual growers. Funds from this program will be used to clean up these abandoned labs and highly toxic sites. In addition, civil penalties would be brought against the responsible party, not the grower.

Meth "Sniffer"

It's called a "SCAD," or "Standoff Chemical Agent Detector." And this device has a mechanical nose for methamphetamine. I am co-authoring AB 382 with Assemblyman Cardoza to purchase "SCAD" devices, and the measure would also fund a training program. The equipment would be used by the Central Valley Methamphetamine Task Force to detect hard-to-find "meth labs."

To read the bill text, click [here](#)